

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 27 Jan 53 28/0215Z	2. LOCATION Cottonwood, Arizona
3. SOURCE Civ. man	10. CONCLUSION PROBABLY AIRCRAFT
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	Possibly a/c
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 5 Min.	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Large yellowish-orange light with a smaller light traveling at an est speed of 350-400 mph at approx 8,000' to 10,000' alt.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE South	
8. PHOTOS ☐ Yes ☒ No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ☐ Yes ☒ No	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

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(CLASSIFICATION)

COUNTRY U. S. A.	REPORT NO. ATRC IR-1-53	(LEAVE BLANK)
SUBJECT FLYORRPT		
AREA REPORTED ON Cottonwood, Arizona		FROM (Agency) Wing Training & Operations Williams Air Force Base, Arizona
DATE OF REPORT 30 January 1953	DATE OF INFORMATION 27 January 1953	EVALUATION P-6
PREPARED BY (Officer) Harold W. Lehman, Capt USAF		SOURCE Mr. [REDACTED]
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) AFL 200-5, 29 April 1952		

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

On 27 January 1953 at approximately 1915 hours MST, an unidentifiable object was sighted by Mr. [REDACTED], while standing in the yard at his home in Cottonwood, Arizona. The approximate position of Cottonwood, Arizona is 112° 2 minutes west longitude and 34° 44 minutes north latitude. Mr. [REDACTED] sighted this object in an easterly direction from Cottonwood. He estimated the altitude of the object to be from 8,000 to 10,000 feet and at an estimated distance of 7 to 10 miles. Traveling at approximately 350 to 400 MPH, the object was moving in a parallel direction to Cottonwood on a heading of south. This strange object as viewed from a set of 8x30 binoculars was described as being a large spot of light with a smaller light trailing it as a tail. By judging the distance from the larger mass of light to the smaller mass, it was determined that the object was of considerable length. It appeared somewhat brighter and larger than any of the stars in the area and was of a yellow orange color. There was no blinking of any lights and there was no sound heard. From the time of first sighting until the object disappeared approximately 5 minutes elapsed. Immediately prior to Mr. [REDACTED]'s observing this object, he noticed a conventional aircraft in the immediate vicinity of where the object was sighted.

Mr. [REDACTED] is unknown to this writer. Therefore, the reliability of this report cannot be determined. It is believed that the estimated altitudes, distances and speeds are unreliable and that the object was much farther and higher than estimated by Mr. [REDACTED].

Harold W. Lehman
HAROLD W. LEHMAN
Captain, USAF
Wg Tng & Opr Officer

2 INCL.

1. Statement of Mr. [REDACTED] (quad)
2. Map diagram (quad)

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A TRUE COPY:

Harold W. Lehman
HAROLD W. LEHMAN
Captain, USAF

[REDACTED]
ATRC IR-1-53

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Cottonwood, Arizona
28 January 1953

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Commanding Officer
Williams Air Force Base
Chandler, Arizona

Dear Sir:

Last night, 27 Jan 53, at 1915 hrs, I sighted in the eastern sky an illuminated object moving in a horizontal direction proceeding south at an estimated altitude of 8,000 to 10,000 feet; at an estimated distance of not less than seven nor more than ten miles and traveling at 350 to 400 miles per hour.

At the above mentioned time, I happened to be outside the house when an airplane overhead proceeding eastward caught my attention. I followed its blinking lights until it disappeared in the east at which time I noticed the illuminated object. It appeared somewhat brighter and larger than any of the stars in the area and was of a yellow-orange color. At first I thought it to be a conventional type aircraft headed towards me with its landing lights on. But I soon realized it was moving broadside to me going south. My curiosity prompted me to hurry into the house for binoculars (8x30), and after securing them, I was able to pick up the object again and get a better view of it.

Thru the binoculars I could see that the object consisted of a large spot of light with a smaller light by comparison trailing it which I took to be the tail of the object. Judging from the position of the smaller light to the larger one, the object would be of considerable length. It moved too fast for a blimp and emitted too much light for a jet. Moreover, a full moon was out which at that distance would have made a jet or conventional motor type plane all but invisible. Neither the large nor small light blinked and no sound was heard.

I was able to follow it thru the glasses approximately five minutes before it became faded and disappeared.

Perhaps the pilot or copilot or both of the plane that first caught my attention spotted the object. I believe the plane was a regularly scheduled airliner. It is a possibility the object moved the way it did to avoid contact with the plane.

There is a section of the Air Force that was set up expressly to study and evaluate such phenomena, but I do not recall its location or name. I am sending this to you for forwarding to the proper authorities.

I am not seeking notoriety or publicity; I hope perhaps someone else saw and reported it. Last night after finally losing the object I took down some notes from which I have written this.

Should the Air Force have further questions regarding this matter, not hesitate to call on me.

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[REDACTED]
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